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Sens. Stamas, Allen and McManus announce town hall meeting on graduation requirements

LANSING – A town hall meeting about proposed high school graduation requirements, featuring Sen. Wayne Kuipers, chair of the Senate Education Committee, will be held in Gaylord, announced Sens. Tony Stamas, Michelle McManus and Jason Allen.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for residents of northern Michigan to step forward and share their opinions on proposed changes to high school graduation requirements," said Stamas, R-Midland. "If put into action, these proposed changes would affect students all across Michigan. It's important that northern Michigan has a voice in the decision making process. I'd like to thank my colleagues for coming to the 36th Senate District to hold this town hall meeting."

The town hall meeting will begin at 9 a.m., Saturday, March 4, at Gaylord High School, 90 Livingston Blvd. Parents, teachers and local school administrators are invited to attend. All are welcome to listen and learn.

"We need feedback and support from everyone for reforms to succeed," said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. "We are taking this opportunity to hear from teachers, students and parents on all sides of the issue to help us make the best decisions for Michigan's students."

The Senate is considering a proposal from the state superintendent and State Board of Education that would implement graduation requirements beyond the half year of civics class now required. The plan would require students to take certain courses and a certain number of years, or equivalent credit, in different subjects:

- Four of English;
- Four of math, including Algebra I and II, and geometry;
- Three of science, including a year of biology, and either physics or chemistry;
- Three of social science, including half-year each of civics and economics, and a year each of U.S. and world history;
- Two of foreign language;
- One of health and physical education; and,
- One of visual or performing arts.

Michigan is among a handful of states that have minimal statewide graduation requirements. In Michigan, graduation requirements are left to local school boards.

"I am happy to welcome Senator Kuipers to northern Michigan as he continues to gather input from the residents of our state on the proposed graduation requirements," said Allen, R-Traverse City. "There is a lot of interest in this issue in northern Michigan and I encourage everyone to attend and share their thoughts and concerns on the proposed changes."

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